

**What is Claimed:**

1. A computer system comprising:

a plurality of Items comprising at least one Item, where each of said plurality of Items constitute a discrete storable unit of information that can be manipulated by a hardware/software interface system;

a plurality of Item Folders comprising at least one Item Folder, wherein said plurality of Item Folders constitute an organizational structure for said Items; and

a hardware/software interface system for manipulating said plurality of Items, wherein each of said plurality of Items belongs to at least one of said plurality of Item Folders, and wherein each of said plurality of Items may belong to more than one Item Folder of said plurality of Item Folders.

2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein an Item is a member of an Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.

3. The computer system of claim 1 wherein an Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.

4. The computer system of claim 1 wherein an Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

5. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.

6. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.
7. The computer system of claim 1 wherein each Item is a member of at least one Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of an Item.
8. The computer system of claim 1 wherein each said Item is itself automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.
9. The computer system of claim 1 wherein each said Item, when each no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically become members of a default Item Folder.
10. The computer system of claim 1 wherein each said Item is itself automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.
11. The computer system of claim 1 wherein each said Item, when each is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically become members of a default Item Folder.
12. The computer system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of Categories comprising at least one Category, wherein said plurality of Categories constitute an organizational structure for said Items.
13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein a Category is defined by an Item property.

14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein one of said plurality of Categories is defined by an Item property, and only an Item comprising the Item property for a specific Category from among said plurality of Categories can be a member of said specific Category.
15. The computer system of claim 14 wherein an Item comprising the Item property for one of said plurality of Categories is automatically a member of that one of said plurality of Categories.
16. The computer system of claim 15 wherein an Item comprising one or more Item properties corresponding to one or more Categories of said plurality of Categories is automatically a member of each such Categories for said corresponding Item properties.
17. The computer system of claim 12 wherein each of said plurality of Categories is defined by an Item property.
18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein each of said plurality of Categories is defined by an Item property, and only Items comprising the Item property for a specific Category from among said plurality of Categories can be members of said specific Category.
19. The computer system of claim 18 wherein each Item comprising the Item property for one of said plurality of Categories are automatically members of that one of said plurality of Categories.
20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein all Items comprising one or more Item properties corresponding to one or more Categories of said plurality of Categories are automatically members of all such Categories for said corresponding Item properties.

21. A hardware/software interface system capable of manipulating an Item, said Item comprising a discrete unit of information comprising a basic set of properties commonly supported across objects exposed by an operating system shell.
22. The hardware/software interface system of claim 21 wherein said Item is a fundamental unit of information manipulated by an operating system.
23. The hardware/software interface system of claim 21 wherein said Item is a fundamental unit of information manipulated by a virtual machine manager.
24. The hardware/software interface system of claim 21 wherein said Item is a fundamental unit of information manipulated by a Common Language Runtime.
25. The hardware/software interface system of claim 21 wherein said Item is a fundamental unit of information manipulated by a Java Virtual Machine.
26. The hardware/software interface system of claim 22 wherein said Item is a member of an Item Folder.
27. The hardware/software interface system of claim 23 wherein said Item is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.
28. The hardware/software interface system of claim 27 wherein said Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.
29. The hardware/software interface system of claim 27 wherein said Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

30. The hardware/software interface system of claim 27 wherein said Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.
31. The hardware/software interface system of claim 27 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.
32. The hardware/software interface system of claim 22 wherein said Item is a member of a Category.
33. The hardware/software interface system of claim 32 wherein said Category is defined by an Item property.
34. The hardware/software interface system of claim 33 wherein said Category is defined by an Item property, and only an Item comprising the Item property for said Category can be a member of said Category.
35. The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein an Item comprising the Item property for one of said plurality of Categories is automatically a member of that one of said plurality of Categories.
36. The hardware/software interface system of claim 35 wherein an Item comprising one or more Item properties corresponding to one or more Categories is automatically a member of each such Categories having at least one of said corresponding Item properties.
37. A method for organizing Items in computer system, said Items comprising a discrete unit of information that can be manipulated by a hardware/software interface system, said method

comprising means by which an Item can be a member of at least two Item Folders but is not owned by any of said Item Folders such that the deletion of any of said Item Folders does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the Item is a member of an Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.

40. The method of claim 38 wherein said Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

41. The method of claim 38 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.

42. The method of claim 38 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

43. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for an Item, said Item comprising a discrete unit of information that can be manipulated by a hardware/software interface system.

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein the Item is a member of an Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.

45. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.
46. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 wherein said Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.
47. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.
48. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.
49. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for organizing Items in computer system, said Items comprising a discrete unit of information that can be manipulated by a hardware/software interface system, said method comprising means by which an Item can be a member of at least two Item Folders but is not owned by any of said Item Folders such that the deletion of any of said Item Folders does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.
50. The computer-readable medium of claim 49 wherein the Item is a member of an Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.
51. The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein said Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.

54. The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

55. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for a hardware/software interface system, said operating system comprising:

means for manipulating a plurality of Items comprising at least one Item, where each of said plurality of Items constitute a discrete unit of information that can be manipulated by a hardware/software interface system;

means for manipulating a plurality of Item Folders comprising at least one Item Folder, wherein said plurality of Item Folders constitute an organizational structure for said Items; and

wherein each of said plurality of Items belongs to at least one of said plurality of Item Folders, and wherein each of said plurality of Items may belong to more than one Item Folder of said plurality of Item Folders.

56. The computer-readable medium of claim 55 wherein an Item is a member of an Item Folder but is not owned by said Item Folder, such that the deletion of said Item Folder does not automatically result in the deletion of said Item.

57. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder.

58. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein said Item, when it no longer belongs to any Item Folder, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.

59. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein the Item is automatically deleted when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein said Item, when it is a member of only one Item Folder and said Item Folder is deleted, automatically becomes a member of a default Item Folder.